CLAIMS:

1. A windscreen wiper which includes

an elongate curved backbone which is of a resiliently flexible material; and

a force applying member which is connected to the backbone at two spaced apart points

with the spacing distance S (expressed in millimetres) between the points being between

$$S_1 = 0.1 * L \quad \ldots\ldots\ldots \quad (1)$$

and

$$S_2 = 0.35 * L \quad \ldots\ldots\ldots \quad (2)$$

where the length L is the total length of the backbone expressed in millimetres.

2. A windscreen wiper which includes

an elongate curved backbone which is of a resiliently flexible material; and

a force applying member which is connected to the backbone at two spaced apart points

with the ratio R of spacing distance S between the points and the total length L ($R = S/L$) being between

$$R_1 = 0.1 \quad \ldots\ldots\ldots \quad (3)$$

and

$$R_2 = 0.35 \quad \ldots\ldots\ldots \quad (4)$$

where the spacing distance S and the length L are expressed in the same units of measure.

3. The windscreen wiper as claimed in Claim 1, in which the preferred spacing distance S_p between the spaced apart points is about

$$S_p = 0.363 * L - 0.000146 * L^2 \quad \ldots\ldots\ldots \quad (5)$$

4. The windscreen wiper as claimed in Claim 2, in which the preferred ratio R_p is about

$$R_p = 0.363 - 0.000146 * L \quad \ldots\ldots\ldots \quad (6)$$

5. The windscreen wiper as claimed in Claim 1, in which the force applying member is connected to the backbone in such a manner as to permit relative longitudinal displacement between the force applying member and the backbone.

6. The windscreen wiper as claimed in Claim 1, in which the curved backbone has a varying width and thickness, along its length.

7. The windscreen wiper as claimed in Claim 1, in which the curved backbone has a constant thickness along its length.

8. The windscreen wiper as claimed in Claim 1, in which the curved backbone has a constant width along its length.

9. The windscreen wiper as claimed in Claim 1, in which the backbone has a free form curvature in a plane.

10. The windscreen wiper as claimed in Claim 1, in which the backbone has a compound curvature.

11. The windscreen wiper as claimed in Claim 1, in which the force applying member straddles the geometric centre of the backbone.

12. A windscreen wiper substantially as herein desribed with reference to the accompanying drawing.